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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/042,321	01/11/2002	Takeya Miwa	Q68046	4431

23373 7590 02/11/2003

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EXAMINER

FIGUEROA, FELIX O

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2833

DATE MAILED: 02/11/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/042,321

Applicant(s)

MIWA, TAKEYA

Examiner

Felix O. Figueroa

Art Unit

2833

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-11 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-11 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 11 January 2002 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on ____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 2.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s) ____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Specification

The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities: Please note that even though the SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION should be commensurate with the invention as claimed and any object recited should be that of the invention as claimed, it should not repeat the claims.

Appropriate correction is required.

Drawings

Figures 7-10 should be designated by a legend such as --Prior Art-- because only that which is old is illustrated. See MPEP § 608.02(g).

The drawings are objected to because they have elements shown in cross section which are not properly crosshatched. Insulating members shown in cross section should be properly crosshatched. See for example upper socket 21 in Fig.3. See also Figures 5 and 7. It is brought to applicant's attention that the conventional crosshatch for insulating members shown in cross section consists of lines of two different thicknesses alternatively disposed.



The drawings are objected to under 37 CFR 1.84(h)(3) because section lines in drawings should refer to the view number of the sectional view where it is shown. Figure 2 should have section line 3-3; and Figure 4 should have section line 5-5.

It appears that Figure 10 should be three separated figures, e.g. Figures 10A, 10B and 10C.

The drawings are objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a). The drawings must show every feature of the invention specified in the claims. Therefore, the lamp unit body, as required by claim 6, must be shown or the features canceled from the claims. No new matter should be entered.

A proposed drawing correction or corrected drawings are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Claim Objections

Claims 1, 3-7, 10 and 11 are objected to because of the following informalities:

In claim 1 line 1, "the lamp sockets" lacks antecedent basis. Line 10 recites "the wire", but it is unclear which wire is being referred to. See also claim 2 line 3; claim 3 line 5.

In claim 3 line 6, "the other" should be --another--.

In claim 4 line 1, "the bulb" lacks antecedent basis.

In claim 5 line 3, insert --a-- prior to "distance".

Claim 6 line 12 recites "the wire", but it is unclear which wire is being referred to. See also claim 8 line 3; and the last line of claim 11.

In claim 7 lines 2-3, "the wire of different lengths" lacks antecedent basis.

In claim 9 line 6, "the other" should be --another--.

In claim 10 lines 1-2, "the bulb" lacks antecedent basis.

In claim 11 line 3, insert --a-- prior to "distance".

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

Claims 1 and 2 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Okamoto (US 6,343,942).

Okamoto discloses a lamp socket comprising: a socket body (12); a connector housing (see Fig.13) for accommodating a connector; a bulb-mounting portion (see Fig.11) for mounting a lamp; and a terminal member (19) provided within the socket body so that a wire, the connector and the lamp can be electrically directly connected.

Please note that ~~the~~ the recitation "in which a plurality of the lamp sockets are mounted on a lamp unit body and are connected together through wires" has not been given patentable weight because the recitation occurs in the preamble. A preamble is generally not accorded any patentable weight where it merely recites the purpose of a process or the intended use of a structure, and where the body of the claim does not depend on the preamble for completeness but, instead, the process steps or structural limitations are able to stand alone. See *In re Hirao*, 535 F.2d 67, 190 USPQ 15 (CCPA 1976) and *Kropa v. Robie*, 187 F.2d 150, 152, 88 USPQ 478, 481 (CCPA 1951).

Regarding claim 2, Okamoto discloses the socket body provided with a wire connection portion (36).

Claims 1, 2 and 6-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Applicant's Admitted Prior Art (Figures 7-10).

Applicant's APA shows a lamp socket comprising: a socket body (1); a connector housing (1c) for accommodating a connector; a bulb-mounting portion (1a) for mounting a lamp; and a terminal member (2) provided within the socket body so that a wire, the connector and the lamp can be electrically directly connected.

Regarding claim 2, the APA discloses the socket body provided with a wire connection portion (below flange 1b).

Regarding claim 6, the APA discloses a socket assembly (Fig.9) comprising: a lamp unit body (5); a plurality of lamp sockets (1A, 1B and 1C) mounted on the lamp unit body and connected through wires (7), each lamp socket including: a socket body (1); a connector housing (1c) for accommodating a connector; a bulb-mounting portion (1a) for mounting a lamp; and a terminal member (2) provided within the socket body so that a wire, the connector and the lamp can be electrically directly connected.

Regarding claim 7, the APA shows the lamp sockets being connected to one another by wires of different lengths (Fig.9).

Regarding claim 8, the APA discloses the socket body provided with a wire connection portion (below flange 1b).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 3, 4, 9 and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Applicant's Admitted Prior Art (Figures 7-10) in view of Tanigawa (US 6,086,408).

Applicant's APA discloses substantially the claimed invention except for the wire insertion grooves in which the terminal member is mounted. Tanigawa teaches a socket assembly (Fig1) comprising a plurality of lamp sockets, each having a socket body (Fig.4), a bulb mounting portion (32), a terminal member (23K); the socket body including a wire connection portion (see Fig.7) including wire insertion grooves in which the terminal member is mounted, and the terminal member including at one end a press-connecting blade (40K) which can bite into a sheath of a wire to electrically connector to a conductor of the wire to provide a more stable and secure connection between the blade and the wire. Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to form the socket body of the APA having the wire connection portion including wire insertion grooves in which the terminal member is mounted, as taught by Tanigawa, to form a more stable and secure connection between the blade and the wire.

Regarding claims 4 and 10, the APA shows the bulb in contact with a portion of the terminal member between the press-connecting blade and the male tab.

Claims 5 and 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Applicant's APA and Tanigawa, and further in view of Mews et al. (US 5,931,691).

The APA, as modified by Tanigawa, discloses substantially the claimed invention except for the opposed retaining projections. Mews teaches a lamp socket with a wire connection portion including a wire insertion groove (24) with opposed retaining projections (near 43 in Fig.1) to tightly retain the wire in the insertion groove. Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to form the wire insertion groove of Tanigawa with opposed retaining projections, as taught by Mews, to tightly retain the wire in the insertion groove.

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Pritulsky (US 4,264,117) discloses a lamp socket with wire retention portions. Yamane et al. (US 6,494,723) discloses a terminal member including a connecting blade and a male tab. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Felix O. Figueroa whose telephone number is (703) 308-0097. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon.-Fri., 8:00-5:00.

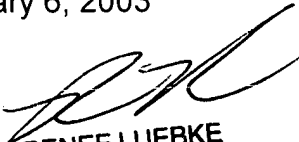
If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Paula Bradley can be reached on (703) 308-2319. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 308-7722 for regular communications and (703) 308-7724 for After Final communications.

Art Unit: 2833

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-1782.

ffr

February 6, 2003


RENEE LUEBKE
PRIMARY EXAMINER